

**Statement to be Attributed to Billene Seyoum, Spokesperson for the Prime Minister of the Government of Ethiopia:**

“The Government of Ethiopia has opened access to aid routes by cutting the number of check points from seven to two and creating air bridges for humanitarian flights. Hundreds of trucks and thousands of tons of food have traveled along this route since. We are also working with dozens of aid groups to ensure assistance reaches people in need.

However, it is deeply concerning that a recent convoy of UN aid trucks has not yet returned from Tigray after several days, especially given the TPLF’s history of violence against aid workers and looting of humanitarian supplies.

TPLF aggression has destroyed countless lives in our country and has needlessly brought war and devastation to the people of Ethiopia. We are committed to bringing an end to this violence, as we have demonstrated by implementing a unilateral ceasefire. While we urge the TPLF to demonstrate a similar commitment to peace, we remain deeply concerned by the group’s continuation of violence, aggression and crimes against humanity.”

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